

Remarks

By the present communication, claims 17, 25, 26, 29 and 32 have been amended. No new matter is introduced by the subject amendments as the amended claim language is fully supported by the specification and original claims. In addition, claims 1-16, 18-24 and 36-57 have been cancelled without prejudice, subject to Applicants' right to pursue the subject matter thereof in one or more subsequently filed applications claiming priority from the present application.

Upon entry of the amendments submitted herewith, claims 17 and 25-35 will remain pending, with claims 24, 25, 29 and 30 indicated on the Office Action Summary to be under active prosecution, and claims 17, 26-28 and 31-35 indicated on the Office Action Summary to be withdrawn from consideration. Applicants hereby request rejoinder as appropriate so that all pending claims can be considered on the merits herein.

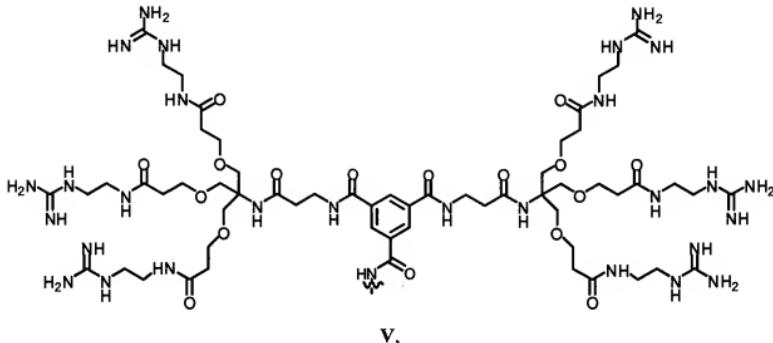
A detailed listing of claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented herein, beginning on page 2 of the present communication, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

The indication that the elected species (i.e., the dendrimer of claim 17 wherein the open valence is a covalent bond to methotrexate or other drugs) is allowable is acknowledged with appreciation.

The objection to claims 24, 25, 29 and 30 as allegedly being in improper form is acknowledged and has been rendered moot by the amendments submitted herewith whereby each of these claims has been amended so as to depend from a single preceding claim. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 1-4 and 7-10 under 35 USC § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Kasai et al. (12 Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters 951 (25 March 2002)) is respectfully traversed, and has been rendered moot by the cancellation of the subject claims by the present communication.

This rejection is not applicable to the claims as amended herein whereby Applicants' invention, as defined for example, by claim 17, distinguishes over Kasai et al. by requiring a transport molecule comprising a dendrimer and a biologically active molecule, wherein the dendrimer comprises a group of formula V or a protonated or a protected form of the group of formula V



and further wherein the biologically active molecule is covalently bonded to the dendrimer.

Kasai et al. do not disclose or suggest such a transport molecule. Indeed, as acknowledged by the Examiner, claims of such scope are allowable (see the first full paragraph at page 3 of the Office Action). Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC § 102(a) are respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 1-4 and 7-10 under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kasai et al. in view of Liu et al. (2 Pharmaceutical Sciences & Technology Today 393 (1 October 1999)) and Ryser et al. (Proc Nat Acad Sci USA 75, p. 3867-3870 (1978)) is respectfully traversed, and has been rendered moot by the cancellation of the subject claims by the present communication.

This rejection is not applicable to the claims as amended herein for at least the reasons set forth above, i.e., Kasai et al. do not disclose or suggest such transport molecules such as those required by the present claims. Further reliance on Liu et al. and/or Ryser et al. is unable to cure the deficiencies of the primary reference.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and favorable action on all claims are respectfully requested. In the event any issues remain to be resolved in view of this communication, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned so that a prompt disposition of this application can be achieved.

Respectfully submitted,

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